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CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 457 OF 24 SEPTEMBER.

*1. include to share
Adm - Schmidt's visit.
M*

FOLLOWING FOR COLES, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY, FROM FLESHER,
10 DOWNING STREET.

THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT HERR SCHMIDT HAS SENT THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE ABOUT RUDOLPH HESS:

QUOTE THE STATE OF HEALTH OF RUDOLPH HESS, WHO IS NOW 88 YEARS
OLD AND IS - AS THE ONLY INMATE OF THE ALLIED MILITARY PRISON
AT BERLIN-SPANDAU - SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE, CLEARLY GIVES GROUNDS
FOR CONCERN. I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION ONCE
MORE TO THE FATE OF THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED FOR OVER
41 YEARS NOW AND APPEAL TO YOU, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE QUESTION OF
LEGAL AND MORAL GUILT, TO ENABLE HIM FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS
THROUGH AN ACT OF CLEMENCY TO SPEND THE LAST DAYS OF HIS LIFE
WITH HIS FAMILY.

RUDOLPH HESS HAS GIVEN HIS WORD OF HONOUR TO HIS SON THAT, ON
BEING RELEASED, HE WILL NOT COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON HISTORICAL,
CONTEMPORARY OR POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

I SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD GRANT THE RELATIVES OF
RUDOLPH,

HESSES THEIR WISH THAT, IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH IN
PRISON, HIS BODY BE HANDED OVER TO THEM FOR BURIAL. UNQUOTE

WE HAVE ASKED THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO PROVIDE A DRAFT REPLY FOR
THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN.

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE

SW



Copied to: PRESS
OFFICE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 September, 1982

As I mentioned on the telephone, the Prime Minister has received the attached message from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany seeking the release of Herr Rudolph Hess or, alternatively, in the event of his death in prison, that his body be handed to his relatives for burial.

BF
I should be grateful for your advice on how the Prime Minister should respond to Herr Schmidt's message as soon as possible, bearing in mind Herr Schmidt's likely departure from office next week.

I also enclose a telegram for the Prime Minister's party in Peking and I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

JB

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

Department

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence

IMMEDIATE

DESKBYZ

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)

(Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin)Z(G.M.T.)

(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL

(Restrictive Prefix)

(Caveat/
Privacy Marking)

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TO IMMEDIATE PEKING Tel. No. 444 of 24/9
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Following for Coles, Prime Minister's Party, from
Flesher, 10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister may wish to know that Herr Schmidt has sent the following message about Rudolph Hess:

"The state of health of Rudolph Hess, who is now 88 years old and is - as the only inmate of the allied military prison at Berlin-Spandau - serving a life sentence, clearly gives grounds for concern. I should therefore like to draw your attention once more to the fate of this man who has been imprisoned for over 41 years now and appeal to you, irrespective of the question of legal and moral guilt, to enable him for humanitarian reasons through an act of clemency to spend the last days of his life with his family.

/Rudolph Hess

Copies to:-

Rudolph Hess has given his word of honour to his son that, on being released, he will not comment in any way on historical, contemporary or political questions.

I should also be grateful if you could grant the relatives of Rudolph Hess their wish that, in the event of his death in prison, his body be handed over to them for burial."

We have asked the Foreign Office to provided a draft reply for the Prime Minister's return.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

T 184/82.



DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

London, 24 September 1982

Her Prime Minister

I have been instructed to transmit to you the enclosed message from Herr Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Identical messages have been addressed to the Heads of State or Government of the other three detaining Powers.

I am, Her Prime Minister,
Yours sincerely
Jürgen Ruhfus

Jürgen Ruhfus

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Her Majesty's Prime Minister
and
First Lord of the Treasury
L o n d o n

SUBJECT

Translation

cc Master
Ops

From: Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

To: The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and First Lord of
the Treasury

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 184/82**

Dear Margaret,

The state of health of Rudolf Hess, who is now 88 years old and is - as the only inmate of the allied military prison at Berlin-Spandau - serving a life sentence, clearly gives grounds for concern. I should therefore like to draw your attention once more to the fate of this man who has been imprisoned for over 41 years now and appeal to you, irrespective of the question of legal and moral guilt, to enable him for humanitarian reasons through an act of clemency to spend the last days of his life with his family.

Rudolf Hess has given his word of honour to his son that, on being released, he will not comment in any way on historical, contemporary or political questions.

I should also be grateful if you could grant the relatives of Rudolf Hess their wish that, in the event of his death in prison, his body be handed over to them for burial.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Helmut Schmidt

MATTPOST

Von: Helmut Schmidt, Bundeskanzler der Bundesrepublik
Deutschland

An: The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Premierminister des Vereinigten Königreichs von
Großbritannien und Nordirland

Liebe Margaret,

der Gesundheitszustand des 88 Jahre alten Rudolf Hess, der noch als einziger Häftling im alliierten Militärgefängnis Berlin-Spandau eine lebenslange Freiheitsstrafe verbüßt, ist offensichtlich besorgniserregend. Ich möchte daher Ihre Aufmerksamkeit erneut auf das Schicksal dieses Mannes lenken, der seit über 41 Jahren inhaftiert ist, und an Sie appellieren, ihm unabhängig von rechtlicher und moralischer Schuld aus Gründen der Menschlichkeit durch einen Akt der Gnade zu ermöglichen, seine letzten Tage im Kreise seiner Familie zu verbringen.

Rudolf Hess hat seinem Sohn gegenüber ehrenwörtlich erklärt, daß er sich nach seiner Freilassung nicht zu irgendwelchen historischen, zeitgeschichtlichen oder politischen Fragen äußern werde.

Ich wäre ferner dankbar, wenn Sie sich der Bitte der Familie von Rudolf Hess nicht verschließen würden, im Falle seines Ablebens in der Haft den Leichnam seinen Angehörigen zur Bestattung zu übergeben.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

gez. Helmut Schmidt

ZETA
MATTPOST